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Noise Abatement Plan for Open Air Concerts and Events in Parramatta Park

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Overview

Parramatta Park hosts a variety of open air events that may have an acoustic impact outside the park.

This noise management plan has been developed to ensure that events adhere to appropriate noise limits that respect our neighbours while allowing the Park to fulfil its role as an important venue for cultural and entertainment events.

Noise Abatement Plan

Parramatta Park's noise abatement plan proposes a practicable noise control method that can be applied to all types of events held at the park.

The plan has been developed using data from past events and incorporating current industry best-practice for outdoor venues.

A review of the plan will be undertaken at the end of the summer event season, each year. The review will include a summary of events, focusing on noise measurements taken, complaints received, promoter compliance plan and will make further recommendations, if required.

Events at Parramatta Park are classified according to size, likely noise impact and actions required to minimise this impact. These classifications are **GREEN and RED**.

GREEN events are low impact with no widespread adverse noise impact.

RED events have the potential for adverse noise impacts and require strict, enforceable controls.

Types of Events and Appropriate Actions

Common actions both RED and GREEN events

- Hirers and event staff are informed of noise limits and noise reduction procedures. They are also informed of permitted operating times, as well as noise-limiting and reporting requirements.
- A complaints hotline will be established for the duration of each event, including for sound checks.
- Parramatta Park will provide notification of all known event dates at the start of the season. The Parramatta Park website will be updated as new events are booked. Notification will include: event operating hours, type of event, and the hotline number.

- For every event, a record of actual operating times, results, complaints and actions taken will be recorded and kept by the Hirer and provided to Parramatta Park Trust within 24 hours, to allow for complaint management.
- Fireworks shows are not to exceed 15 minutes in duration, and must not occur within one hour of Civil Sunset.
- Sudden loud noises are not permitted within 500-metres of the Grey-Headed Flying Fox camp.
- The Macquarie Street exit must be used for late night bump in/out vehicle activity. Late night exit from the Park must be approved by and on the direction of Parramatta Park Trust in advance of the event.

GREEN events

Types of GREEN events

Events with lower noise risk events are classified as **GREEN**. Noise emissions from these events are likely to be below those for **RED** events.

GREEN events include, but are not limited to:

- fun runs, community events or similar events that do not rely on amplified music as the focus of entertainment;
- musical events with small stages catering for less than 1,000 patrons;
- films and theatrical presentations;
- events without amplification;
- Events that are likely to be, or have previously been measured, below LA_{max} 65 dB(A) and LC_{max} 80 dB(C) at the nearest park boundary; and
- events that Parramatta Park may deem to be a **GREEN**.

Noise limits for GREEN events

The noise limits for Green Events are summarised below:

Location	Noise Limit, LA_{max} dB(A)	Noise Limit, LC_{max} dB(C)
At the nearest Park boundary	65	80

Time limits for GREEN events

The noise emitting time limits for **GREEN** events are summarised below:

All days	9:00am-10:00pm (soundchecks, if required, must be undertaken within these hours – there will be no soundchecks outside of these hours)
Events with no amplified music	7:00am-10:00pm

Parramatta Park reserves the right to approve an extension of these hours if it has been advised of the details of all noise sources and operating times and is satisfied that the amenity impacts at the nearest Park boundary are acceptable.

Actions for GREEN events

To ensure the noise and time limits are followed, the following measures have or will be implemented:

Prior to the event:

- Parramatta Park Trust will provide the Hirer with a copy of the Noise Abatement Plan. The Trust requires documentation, including stage running times (including sound checks) to be provided and approved by the Hirer prior to the event;
- In cases where the Hirer requests permission to use amplification for a **GREEN** event, the Trust will review the speaker type and placement before indicating approval.

During the Event

- Parramatta Park Trust will have a Duty Ranger on site. The Ranger will answer calls to the Park Duty phone throughout the event.
- Parramatta Park or its appointed representative (generally the Duty Ranger) will monitor, control and report on the entire event in accordance with the self-monitoring procedures below. The representative will:
 - use a sound level meter to monitor noise level emission from the event;
 - use the low range;
 - set the meter to "A"-weighted and use FAST or "F";
 - Note that the average level at the Park boundary should be no more than L_{Amax} 65 dB(A);
 - set the meter to "C"-weighted and use FAST or "F";
 - Note that the average level at the Park boundary should be no more than L_{Amax} 80 dB(C);
 - record the measured levels and measurement details; and
 - check the levels at the start of the event and regularly when speakers are operating and insist that sound operators reduce the levels when required.

RED events

Types of RED events

Higher noise events are categorised as **RED**. Their noise emissions are measured at “noise sensitive locations”, (rather than the nearest Park boundary as with Green events). **RED** events are those events likely to be close to or to exceed the noise limits at noise sensitive locations if not controlled.

Noise sensitive areas are:

- the corner of Queens Road and Park Avenue;
- the north and east end of Oakes Street;
- the Park end of Clive Lane;
- the east end of Amos Street;
- the corner of Macquarie and Pitt streets; and
- the Grey-headed Flying Fox camp.

RED events may include, but are not limited to:

- music based events, concerts and music festivals with over 3,000 patrons, or events that the Trust may deem **RED**;
- music-based events with multiple/extra stages/speakers in locations other than The Crescent;
- all events that are likely to exceed or have previously been measured *above* LAmax 65 dB(A) or LCmax 80 dB(C) at noise sensitive locations; and

any events that the Trust may deem **RED**.

Number of RED events

The Park will host no more than 15 **RED** events per financial year and no more than four **RED** events in any calendar month.

Noise limits for RED events

The residential limits are based on the EPA *Noise Guide for Local Government* (EPA 2013/0127) and have been modified to include a low frequency limit. The limits are considered comparable to many other outdoor venues and are summarised below:

Location	Noise Limit, LAmax dB(A)	Noise Limit, LCmax dB(C)
Noise sensitive areas	75	90

Time limits for RED events

The time limits for **RED** events, including sound checks, are summarised below:

Friday, Saturday or the day immediately before a public holiday	10:00am-11:00am – <i>soundcheck only</i> – live performances are not permitted during these times
Friday, Saturday or the day immediately before a public holiday	11:00am-11:00pm - live performances with a maximum music time of 12 hours
Sunday – Thursday (excluding the day before a public holiday)	10:00am-11:00am – <i>soundcheck only</i> – live performances are not permitted during these times
Sunday – Thursday (excluding the day before a public holiday)	11:00am-10:00pm, live performances with a maximum music time of 10 hours
New Year Eve	Until 1:00am on 1 January, with a maximum music time of 10 hours, subject to reduced noise limit of Lmax 65 dB(A) and Lmax 80 dB(C) after midnight.
Pre-event soundchecks	Soundchecks can be carried out between 10:00am-6:00pm on the day prior to the event, unless otherwise approved.

Actions for RED events

To ensure compliance with noise and time limits, the following measures will be implemented ***prior to*** the event:

- For the west-facing Crescent Stage, sound production configuration will be determined in consultation with an acoustic consultant to minimise the impact of noise on nearby residences and comply with noise limits.
- Where possible, other stages will be placed facing away from noise sensitive areas. The front of these stages can be ***no less than 400 metres*** from any noise sensitive location. The backs and sides of these stages can be ***no less than 200 metres*** from any noise sensitive location.
- Array speakers shall be flown at a height of less-than nine (9) metres and must face downwards. Delay speakers may be required to provide adequate coverage.
- Soundchecks performed on the day prior to the event: These cannot begin prior to 10:00am and must be completed by 6:00pm.
- Soundchecks on the day of the event cannot begin prior to 10:00am.
- Soundchecks for **RED** events must not exceed the noise limits outlined in this noise abatement plan.
- Residents will be informed of **RED** events via a letter-box notification conducted by the Hirer. Notification will include event operating hours, type of event and a relevant hotline number. The letter drop area is given in Appendix A. The letterbox drop will be GPS-tracked to ensure compliance.

- A qualified acoustic consultant will be appointed to each **RED** event to monitor noise emissions and investigate complaints. The consultant will provide advice to Park officers and the Hirer and will provide detailed reporting of the noise emissions for each event.
- This noise management plan will be given to Hirers, placed on the Trust's website, and become part of the venue hire conditions.

To ensure compliance with noise and time limits, the following measures will be implemented **during** the event:

- Noise limits at all noise sensitive locations must comply with the levels defined in this document.
- Time limits must comply with those defined in this document.
- A complaints hotline will be established for the duration of the event, including bump in and out.
- A qualified acoustic consultant will undertake frequent, scheduled monitoring at the defined noise sensitive locations and at any additional locations as might be necessary based on the conditions and/or any complaints received.
- The qualified acoustic consultant will investigate complaints and the results of the investigation and any actions taken will be recorded in a log, and reported back to the complainant.
- The Hirer shall maintain a register of noise measurement locations, times and actual noise level readings. This register is to be made available to Park officers on request at any time during the event and will form part of the post-event Noise Report.
- The hotline number is to be published in the Public Notices section of the local paper not less than two (2) weeks prior to the event. It must also be published on Trust and Hirer's websites and in the notification to local residents.
- The procedure outlined below will be followed in all instances:
 - The hotline operator will record the name, address, telephone number and nature of the complaint and forward these details by phone or radio to the qualified acoustic consultant;
 - The acoustic consultant will visit the complainant's property and measure the music level.
 - The consultant will contact the production manager if a noise reduction is required, and discuss the levels with the resident if requested
 - The effect of the subsequent reduction will be measured, recorded and reported back to the complainant.

- Park officers may also request the production manager reduce noise levels if these are found to exceed limits during routine monitoring.
- During the event, the Hirer will ensure that an employee or agent is present at the sound-mixing desk and is able to exercise ultimate control over noise levels from all sound amplification equipment for the duration of the event.
- The acoustic consultant will be in two-way radio and mobile phone contact with the production manager, sound engineers, Hirer, Trust staff and hotline staff throughout the event.
- The production manager and sound engineers/audio supplier shall agree to the requirement to reduce music levels as requested by the acoustic consultant or venue management.
- The production manager and sound engineers/audio supplier acknowledge the penalties that accrue to the Hirer in the event of noise exceedances outlined below.

After the event

- A summary of the measurement data and complaint investigations will be presented to the Hirer and the venue within one (1) business day of the event
 - A report containing the monitoring results and control will be presented to the Hirer and the venue within 30 days of the event.
 - A noise bond will be levied as below:
 - The first noise limit exceedance, being less than two (2) minutes duration, will be recorded without charge to the bond.
 - Any subsequent noise limit exceedances will result in a charge of \$1,000 per minute or part thereof.
 - If the event fails to finish at the agreed time, there will be a charge of \$1,000 for every exceeding minute or part thereof. The show will be shut down should it continue for 15 minutes after the agreed finish time.

Appendix A Additional Information

Allowed operating times and information for Hirer and sound engineers of RED events

Parramatta Park Trust has put in place a series of controls that apply to all Hirers, sound engineers, events and music emitted from the Park. This is to reduce the impact of noise on the surrounding residents and to ensure that the Park can operate in a sustainable manner.

To ensure that Events do not breach the noise limits, the following requirements must be strictly observed:

- Event music may only be played between 11:00am and 10:00pm, except on Friday and Saturday and the day before a public holiday, which allow operation until 11:00pm. On NYE 1:00am operation is permitted subject to a reduced noise limit after midnight. Sound checks may be performed between 10:00 am and 6:..No amplified music may be played outside these times unless otherwise approved by the Trust. Duration of music will be 10 hours or less for higher impact events exclusive of breaks and change over

Bump in/out shall be via Macquarie Street exit gate when extended late into the night, for example travelling shows as directed/approved by the Trust. Otherwise through the Queens Rd gate to avoid damage to the sandstone gate piers

- Music levels at the nearest Noise Sensitive Area are limited to LAmax 75 dB and LCmax 90 dB. This shall be achieved by the Hirer or appointed acoustical consultant advising the sound engineers or production manager to adjust the music levels as required throughout the event. If the required reduction is not achieved, management may need to shut down the offending stage. The sound engineers must be advised of this requirement prior to the event.
- The noises limits typically, but not always, restrict the music levels to Leq 93-98 dB(A) at The Crescent stage mixing desk and Leq 87-94 dB(A) at smaller stages outside of The Crescent.
- The Hirer, production manager and audio supplier shall agree to the requirement to reduce music levels as requested by the acoustic consultant or venue management.
- The noise bond may be retained by the Park for time or noise level exceedances.

Sample Notification Letter

Dear Resident

<Hirer>” would like to inform you of an event to be held in Parramatta Park on <Times: Day: Date>.

To ensure the event complies with noise limits and that there is minimal disruption to the surrounding residential area, the following measures will be implemented:

- 1 There will be no amplified music outside the hours of 10:00am and 11:00pm/10:00am and 10:pm
- 2 Only soundchecks will occur between 10:00am and 11:00am. Live performances will not begin prior to 11:00am
- 3 Sound arising from the event will be monitored continuously to ensure compliance with Parramatta Park’s noise management requirements. Sound levels will be reduced immediately if they are found to exceed these limits. A qualified independent acoustic consultant will be on hand to monitor noise levels during the event and to ensure compliance.
- 4 Limitations will be placed on the type and positioning of sound systems.
- 5 All staff and contractors have been fully briefed and understand the requirements that govern this event.

While you may hear music throughout the day, noise that falls within the guidelines should not interfere with normal conversation.

<Hirer>”can be contacted on phone number <> at any time during the event, should you wish to report any noise related problems.. Upon receipt of a complaint, the sound levels in your immediate area will be measured. If the sound level exceeds the Park’s requirement, it will be reduced immediately. You will be notified of the result of the investigations and the course of action undertaken and a record of the complaint will be logged.

As the event organiser, we may be subject to financial penalties if we fail to respond appropriately to breaches of the noise restrictions, so we will take any necessary precautions to ensure we minimise the effect of our event on neighbouring residents.

Signed

